

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Figs. 1 and 2 have been amended to correct reference numerals and add reference numerals mistakenly left off the figures. Annotated marked-up copies of Figs. 1 and 2 are attached and show changes in red. Clean copies of Figs. 1 and 2 are also attached and incorporate the changes.

Attachments: Annotated marked-up copies of Figs. 1 and 2

Replacement sheets of Figs. 1 and 2

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 18,19, and 22 are amended and claims 1-17 are cancelled, thereby leaving claims 20, 21, and 23 unchanged.

In view of the lack of claim rejections based on the references of record (i.e., 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections), Applicants can only assume that the currently pending claims define over the references of record. Accordingly, the only remaining issues are the drawing objections and the 35 USC §112 rejections. These objections and rejections will be addressed below.

Drawing Objections

The drawings stand objected under 37 CFR §1.83 as failing to show a jaw moveable parallel to said top and bottom faces (claim 21) and suction means (claim 22).

Regarding the drawings showing a jaw moveable parallel to said top and bottom faces, Applicants respectfully submit that this feature of claim 21 is shown in the drawings and, in combination with the relevant description in the specification, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand how the jaw operates and that it moves parallel to said top and bottom faces. More particularly, reference is made to Figs. 4-6 wherein the bottom jaw is shown in the loading position and to Fig. 7 where the bottom jaw is shown in the unloading position. It is clear from the figures, and particularly between Figs. 5 and 7, that the bottom jaw moves in a plane from the loading position to the unloading position and that the plane in which the bottom jaw moves is parallel to the top and bottom faces of the product. This understanding is further clarified with reference to page 8, line 19 through page 9, line 3.

Regarding claim 22 and the Examiner's rejection that the claimed suction means of claim 22 is not illustrated in the drawings, Applicants have amended claim 22 to remove the suction means limitation from claim 22. The claimed subject matter of claim 22 is now fully disclosed in the drawings and clearly described in the description on page 8, line 6 through page 9, line 18, among other places. Accordingly, claim 22 overcomes the Examiner's rejection. Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The drawings also stand objected under 37 CFR §1.84 (s)(p) as failing to contain all numerals in the description and for containing numerals not in the description. Applicants have amended Figs. 1 and 2 to bring the figures into accordance with the reference numerals recited in the specification. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Specification

The specification stands objected to since the reference numeral “2” appears in line 25 of page 3 when it should be reference numeral “3” instead. Also, reference numeral “8” in line 11 of page 4 should be reference numerals “8a, 8b”. Applicants have made these changes to the specification. See the section on page 2 of this paper entitled AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION for these changes. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 USC §112 (¶1)

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 USC §112 (¶1) as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More particularly, the Examiner indicates that it is unclear how the bottom jaw is caused to move in a direction substantially parallel to the top and bottom surfaces.

Reference is made to the above statements in the section entitled Drawing Objections where the subject matter of claim 21 is addressed and the support for the subject matter of claim 21 is identified. Again, with reference to Figs. 4-7, the loading and unloading positions are shown and movement between the positions is clearly described in the specification on page 8, line 6 through page 9, line 18. One of ordinary skill in the art would understand from the drawings and the specification that the bottom jaw moves in a direction substantially parallel to the top and bottom surfaces of the product. Accordingly, the inventors had possession of the claimed invention at the time the application was filed. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 USC §112 (¶2)

Claims 18-23 stand rejected under 35 USC §112 (¶2) as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner suggests that in claim 18, “jaws” in line 5 should be “top jaw”. In claim 19, the Examiner suggests that “and bottom jaws are” in line 1 should be “jaw is” and “each other” in line 2 should be “said bottom jaw”.

Applicants have amended claims 18 and 19 to make the amendments suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, these rejections should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, entry of the present Amendment and allowance of Claims 18-23 are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available for telephone consultation during normal business hours.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul M. McGinley
Reg. No. 55,443
Larry L. Saret
Reg. No. 27,674

Docket No. 048562-9004
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
401 North Michigan Avenue
Suite 1900
Chicago, IL 60611
(312) 222-0800

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

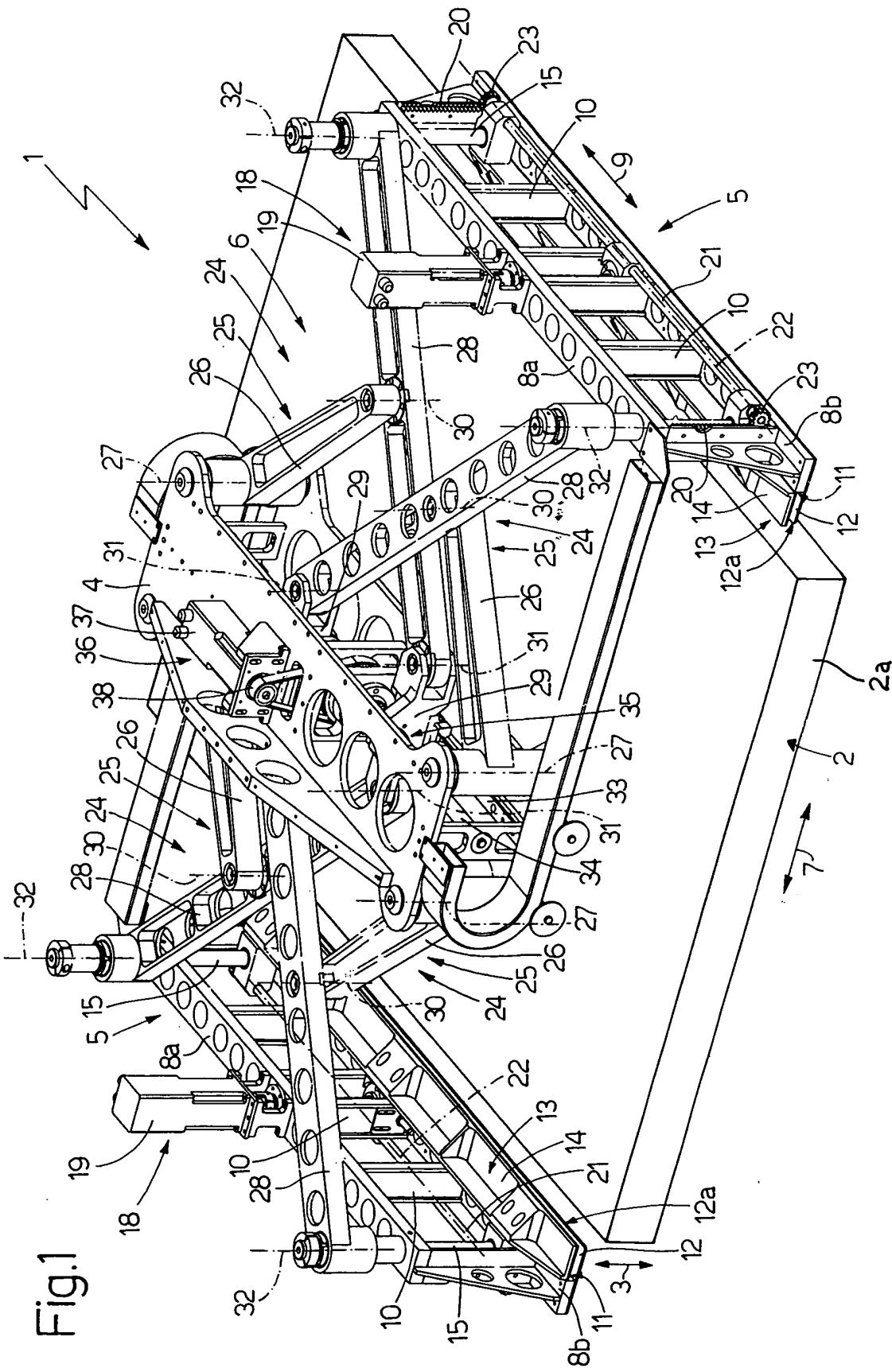


Fig.1

ANNOTATED MARKED-UP DRAWINGS

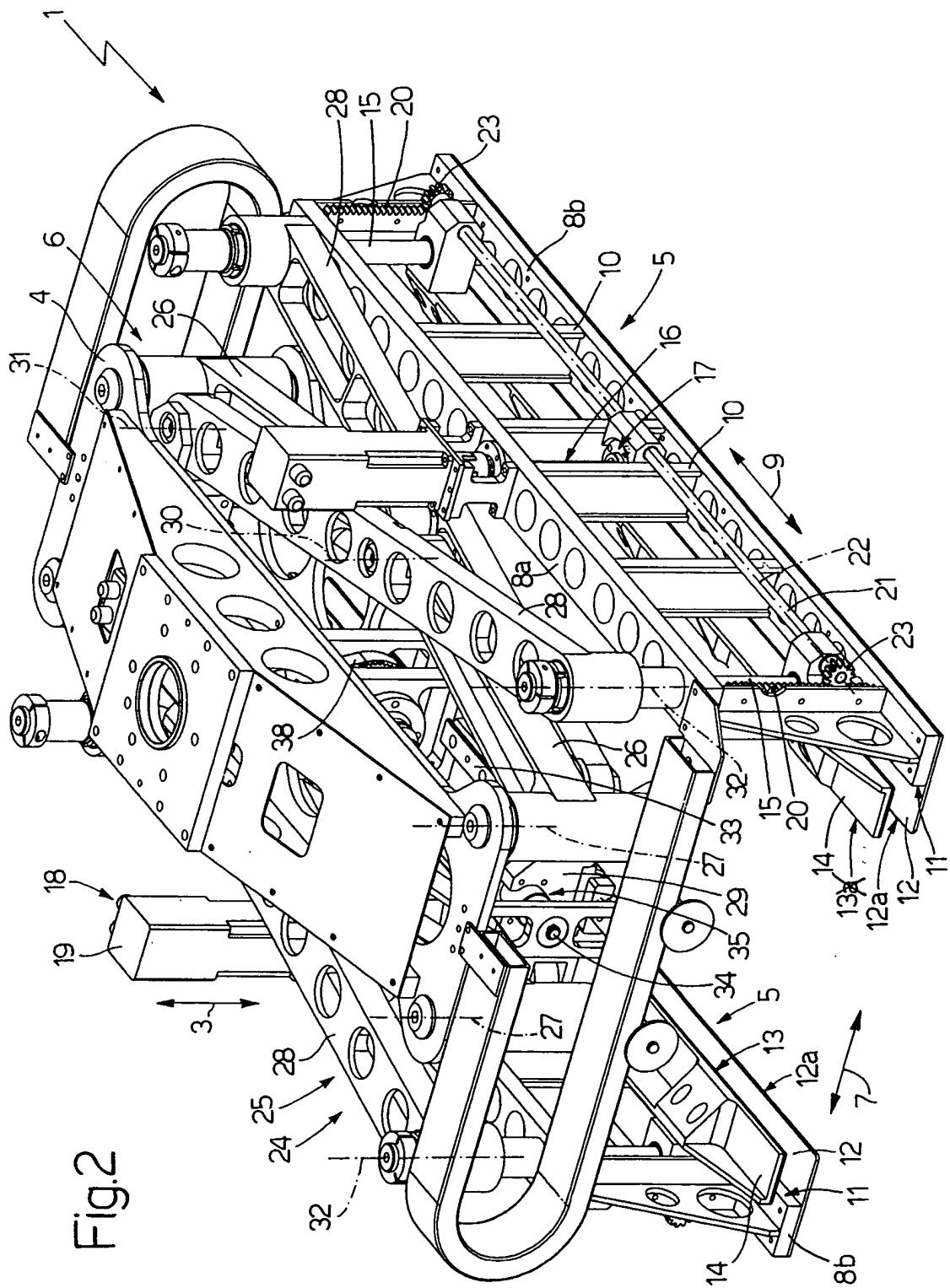


Fig.2